



Dry Litter/Manure AFO/CAFO Records to Demonstrate Good Environmental Stewardship

Good environmental stewardship dictates recording actions taken by an animal feeding operation to “meet or exceed” ADEM AFO/CAFO NPDES Rules, NRCS BMPs, and Extension Recommendations dealing with management of dead animals and animal manure generated by the operation. **Accurate and complete records demonstrate good faith in environmental stewardship.**

This publication contains Record Form R-1, Litter/Manure Solids Generation/Removal Record, and Record Form R-2, Litter/Manure Solids Application Field Record. These can be used to record most of the on-farm actions taken by the AFO/CAFO operator to handle litter/manure generated on the farm according to the in-place management plan. Diligent use of these forms will help the AFO/CAFO operator do a better job of meeting “good sense” management objectives of managing manure and dead birds/animals to protect the environment and meet regulatory requirements.

Operations involving dry manure and/or litter for which records are required are:

1. **ANNUAL MANURE TESTS.** Sample and analyze manure at least yearly for: pH, total N, ammonium N, total P, and selected metals (e.g. zinc, copper, arsenic, etc.) as directed by your DC, County Agent or Qualified Credentialed Professional (QCP) or an ADEM Director representative. Annual testing must be done unless NRCS approved average nutrient/component values are used; in this case, actual testing should be done frequently enough to see if book value matches actual values of the manure or litter. The Auburn University Soils Lab routinely tests poultry litter.
2. **SOIL TESTS.** Tests must show soil pH and lime requirement for the soil and crop to be grown on fields where manure is to be spread. Soil testing must be done at least every 3 years, **by Auburn University Soil Testing Laboratory or other laboratories recognized by the Auburn University Soil Testing Laboratory.**
3. **MANURE PRODUCTION AND TRANSFER.** Whether transported by a Certified Animal Waste Vendor, given away, or applied to owner-controlled land, details of all transfers of litter or manure must be recorded. Record Form R-1 can be used for this.
4. **MANURE LAND APPLICATION.** Details of all land application must be recorded. Record Form R-2 can be used for many of these details. Records should also include maps showing **spreadable acres** in each application field after applying **all applicable buffers.**
5. **MANURE LAND APPLICATION EQUIPMENT CALIBRATION.** Equipment should be calibrated and the results recorded at least once per year to ensure uniform distribution at planned rates. Application should not exceed 10% of planned rate. Contact your ACES County Agent for information on litter truck calibration procedures.
6. **DEAD BIRD/ANIMAL DISPOSAL.** Record rendering agent pick-up volumes and dates, composter loading and unloading and temperature information, approved incinerator loading rates and operation time, and disposition of ashes. Also record any **emergency disposal of dead animals** as directed by the State Veterinarian, Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries.
7. **MANURE SPILLS & CORRECTIVE ACTION.** If equipment breakdown, unusual unpredicted rain, human error, improper management, **or any other reason** causes a litter or manure spill, clean it up as soon as possible, recording what happened and what you do. Notify ADEM within 24 hours after becoming aware of a discharge to any waters of the state. If the discharge was caused by rainfall, information from the on-site

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rain gauge or weather station in close proximity to the spill will be invaluable.

8. **CHEMICAL SPILL PREVENTION, CONTROL, AND COUNTERMEASURES.** Operators are responsible for taking reasonable precautions to prevent chemical or tractor or truck fuel spills. All decisions and actions taken in this regard should be recorded. Such procedures and records help demonstrate good faith in environmental stewardship. The same basic common sense actions used for manure spills and corrective actions apply here as well.
9. **FACILITY AND LAND APPLICATION SITE INSPECTION.** Details of all inspections should be recorded, including the dates of review and person(s) perform-

ing the review, results of such reviews, and follow-up actions taken.

Records of all manure or litter production, land application or transfer, in addition to records concerning dead animal disposal and chemical or manure spills, must be **kept on site for a minimum of three years** to verify that the operation is being conducted according to the AFO/CAFO written CNMP, WMSP, or NMP. NRCS CODE 590, Nutrient Management Standard, requires records to document implementation of 590 **be kept for at least 5 years.** Manure tests and soil tests by authorized laboratories should be filed with Land Application/Transfer records. Any on-site manure tests for nitrogen should be filed with field-specific Land Application Records.

Abbreviations used in this publication:

ADEM – Alabama Department of Environmental Management

ACES – Alabama Cooperative Extension System

AFO/CAFO – Animal Feeding Operation/Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation

DC – District Coordinator (Soil & Water Conservation District)

CNMP – Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (NRCS)

WMSP – Waste Management System Plan

NMP – Nutrient Management Plan

NPDES – National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System

NRCS – Natural Resources Conservation Service

BMP – Best Management Practice

CAWV – Certified Animal Waste Vendor

QCP – Qualified Certified Professional

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